

THE SPECTATOR

Should Council Function Only as a Legislative Body?

Among the reactions stirred by a letter printed in Our Town several weeks ago, under the personal auspices of this reporter, there is evidence that some think an auxiliary group, similar to the old-time Narberth Civic Association, should be formed "to cooperate and work with Borough Council."

There seems to be no particular reason, however, why Council itself cannot be both a legislative body and an improvement association at one and the same time. That idea has never been accepted by our local salons and when that is said it should be remembered that the statement is supposed to interpret a period of at least 30 years and does not pertain merely to men now in office. From that it should follow that any discussion should be an objective one in order to determine whether or not the long-rooted official conviction is really the best thing for Narberth.

In the last quarter-century only three "dispensable" additions have been made to the Borough's facilities, the Playground, the Community Building and the Library. None of them came as the result of Council initiative. In fact, Council provided the hardest hurdle on the Playground and pressure had to be applied so that the people would have an opportunity of passing on it. They approved it by a 10 to 1 vote.

Then, as now, Council's idea apparently is that it is there to save money, not to find extra ways of spending it, as when money is spent the taxpayers must foot the bill, and it can be understood why considerate men are reluctant to draft the other fellow's hard-earned cash.

On the other hand, the record seems to indicate that Narberth citizens are quite willing to spend money when they get value for it, and it would seem they should have had more opportunity to give vent to their civic spirit than has been the case during the last several decades.

If it is said that taxes are high enough, and that there exists no

margin for additional bond issues, however meritorious their use, why is it overlooked that our taxes are far less than Philadelphia pays and that each of us gets a direct and substantial money-value return from any public improvement the Borough makes; something that does not occur in the city or the township.

This reporter is now selling a city house for \$7,000. The 1948 tax bill on it is \$178.25. Our 1947 Narberth tax bill was \$265.48, but Durbin & Howard say this Borough home is worth three-times-plus the selling price of the city house. Suburban incomes exceed the average of city pay envelopes and commuters can be supposed to have at least the equal of city ability and disposition in footing community costs. In this town, every dollar would be cleanly spent, no suggestion of corruption, which is not said to be the case in Philadelphia.

Some one has said that a \$15 head tax would underwrite a quarter-million dollars of borough bonds, which may be an extravagant or technically defective statement. True or not, the plain fact is that Narberth is in a better position to spend a great deal of 2% money on the basis of a highly profitable return to its citizens than any other place for miles around.

One thing, however, constantly (and sadly) intrudes when the town's tomorrow is considered, viz., we are getting old, our homes and our people. There is no place here for the newly-weds and it is their young spirit that is needed to keep things alert and aggressive.

And interesting. Will it be some day, that smart operators will move in and buy up the whole town, making it the basis of \$25,000,000 taxables (could be), avenues of apartments no end, for this bonanza 7-mile location is a natural to take care of the increasing throngs who desire to leave the city, but who still have to be close to their work. That kind of venture is seen all around New York City and it could happen here, perhaps.

—THE SPECTATOR

School Directors State No Reduction in Tax Foreseen for Coming Year; Hold Per Capita Tax

McConnell Opposes Constituents On World Government Issue

Rep. Samuel J. McConnell, Jr., voiced his opinion on the subject of world government on two occasions, last week, to groups of his main line constituents.

A delegation visited McConnell in his Wynnewood home Sunday to acquaint him with the fact that 6780 signatures of Main Line dwellers had been collected on a petition favoring a revision of the United Nations Charter to "enact, interpret and enforce world law to prevent war."

The delegation was headed by Dr. Stuart Mudd and Joseph Sloane, Jr., members of the Main Line Citizens Committee for World Unity and William Chapman, a member of the Haverford College Chapter of United World Federalists.

McConnell reported that he "favored the idea of world government, but thought it a long way off. Aware of the fact that 90 percent of his constituents signed the petition, as well as the fact that many European nations are already on record as favoring world government, McConnell nevertheless conveyed the impression that he would not support the resolutions now in committee, to have President Truman call a constitutional convention under Article 109 of the U. N. Charter, to strengthen that organization in the direction of a world government capable of enforcing peace under law.

On Monday night, at a meeting of the League of Women Voters, the Congressman replied to questions regarding his support of these resolutions, that he did not consider them "practical" at this time.

Mrs. Horace Pettit, chairman of the Main Line Citizens Committee for World Unity, and of the Lower Main Line branch of United World Federalists, told League members that in view of recent developments, it was obvious that the U. N. is incapable of enforcing decisions. Therefore, she continued, as an



S. K. McCONNELL, JR.

instrument for keeping the peace, the U. N. is impractical.

"Something practical," Mrs. Pettit concluded, "is something that works. The only thing that has ever worked to keep peace among men is law."

The dreamers and the idealists," she continued, "are those who believe that human beings will behave themselves under anarchy. The price of peace is the same as the price of liberty, and that price is law."

McConnell admitted that the U. N. was not working to keep peace, but insisted he did not know what should be done about it. For the present, he advanced two panaceas: to reach a "military understanding with Russia, and to put into effect the Marshall plan, or another similar plan, "since you have to take what you can get and hope it will be efficiently handled."

He could advance no long-range plans for opposition to the spreading of the Communist doctrine, such as the concept of a universal law; nor, he admitted, did he think such a plan was an issue at the present time.

Library Increase Action Tabled By School Board

Officials Say Request for \$1500 Fund Boost Must Wait Few Weeks

The Narberth School Board last Thursday night withheld action on a letter from Walter A. Fox, president of the Narberth Borough Council, requesting additional money for the Borough Library.

Officials of the Board stated that no action could be taken on the letter until after a budget meeting scheduled for the latter part of April. A special meeting of the Budget committee will be held April 8, but discussion at that meeting will include only teachers' salaries.

Fox's letter requested that the School Board pass an increased appropriation of \$1500 for the Library, and gave as a reason that the Council was forced to cut its appropriation from a proposed \$4000 to \$2500.

Fox's letter stated, "We think that no doubt you agree that the support of the Library is a responsibility of all of the taxpayers and that it is not healthy to 'pass the hat' as the Library was forced to do last year. We are also sure that you agree with us that our two boards really have the responsibility for providing the necessary support."

The letter pointed out that the 1948 budget of the Library had been set at \$6175, of which \$4000 would have been received from the Council and \$400 from the School Board.

Included in the letter were numerous excerpts from national statistics concerning libraries, which showed the relationship between the school and the library, student use of libraries, and cooperative provision of library services.

The letter ended by stating, "Since the Library Board is anxious to determine its course for the balance of this year at the earliest possible moment, we hope that you may be able to make a decision with reference to this item on your budget with reasonable promptness."

C. Alfred Peeney, 69, Succumbs in Hospital

Funeral services for C. Alfred Peeney, of 309 S. Narberth Ave., Narberth, who died Friday in Presbyterian Hospital after a five weeks' illness, were held Monday evening from the Stuard Funeral Home, Ardmore. He was 69.

A native of Wilmington, Del., Mr. Peeney had lived in Narberth for the past 30 years. He served as district engineer for the Edgemoor Iron Co., Wilmington, for 38 years before his retirement in 1943.

He is survived by two brothers, Joseph F. and Thomas E., and two sisters, Mrs. Edgar P. Hoopes, and Mrs. William C. Lindberg, all of Wilmington. Burial was in Riverview Cemetery, Wilmington.

Three members of the Council, George Albert, Carter and Dunne, were appointed to represent the Council at the April 14 meeting of the Main Line Chamber of Commerce.

Each new member was presented with a handkerchief by the club. At the next meeting Tuesday afternoon, at 2, the Nominating Committee, headed by Mrs. Robert Price, will present a slate of nominees for elections April 20. On her committee are Mrs. William Lakeman, Mrs. W. Ralph Giles, Mrs. A. W. Ayres and Mrs. R. W. Phillips. Nominees will be presented for the offices of 2nd vice president, recording secretary, treasurer and three directors will be elected.

Jessie Lewis will present a review of a play and Miss Jane Weldenau, harpist, will provide the musical selections.

Hostesses at the tea table will be Mrs. E. F. Chubb and Mrs. C. C. Offenhaus.



CADET HANGER

Albert Hoover Hanger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh H. Hanger, of 440 Haverford Ave., Narberth, was graduated from The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, in ceremonies Friday.

Hanger was awarded the degree of bachelor of science in commerce.

A graduate of Lower Merion High School, Hanger entered The Citadel September, 1942. Called to active duty the following March he served with the corps of engineers at Fort Belvoir, Va., and was honorably discharged in May, 1943.

He returned to The Citadel the following October and has held cadet rank each year that he was eligible.

Business Group Plans Survey To Improve Stores

Appoint Committee To Complete Plans For Shopper Poll

The possibility of making a survey among shoppers in Narberth to determine what is needed to improve the Borough business area was discussed by members of the Narberth Business Council at a meeting held recently in the Arcadia Chios Restaurant.

"The survey," an official stated this week, "will probably be made among the shoppers in our local stores, in an effort to determine what the customers want in the way of service, products, stores and other items."

"We expect to make a sincere effort," the official added, "to give the customers what they want, and to make Narberth one of the leading shopping centers on the Main Line."

Roger Burke, president of the Council, appointed a committee including Ralph S. Dunne, W. A. Mapes and Dr. Weisman, to study methods and plans for making the survey in the near future.

The group also appointed a committee to study Christmas decorations for the Borough. The committee includes Miss A. E. McCormick, Charles Sauerbry and F. P. Carter, Jr.

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Costs of Needed Repairs and Additional Teacher Salary Raise Expected to Offset Money Received; Consider Letter From Council Covering Library

Possibility that Narberth's school tax rate will not be reduced, as foreseen earlier this year, and that the \$5 per capita tax will be retained, was voiced this week by a Borough school official.

New developments have erased the earlier thought that perhaps the millage might come down and the per capita tax abolished or decreased.

Last year, according to school directors, the main reason for a millage jump from 19 to 23 mills and for the

establishment of the per capita tax, was the expense of installing two new furnaces and rebuilding the gymnasium floor, plus a substantial raise for the teachers.

This year, however, the removal of two of the above expensive items from the budget will be offset by other imperative needs, including installation of an emergency lighting system and painting of the exteriors of both school buildings.

Rising costs will also enter into the picture as well as another probable teacher salary raise over and above the mandatory \$150 increment as required by State law.

At a school board meeting last Thursday night, board members discussed all budget items except salaries, which will be investigated at a special meeting April 8. A tentative budget will be passed at the April 22 meeting, and in May the official budget will be adopted.

At Thursday's meeting, board members pointed out that all supplies had almost doubled in price, and that most other budget items had increased substantially.

Even Fixed Charges budget items, such as payments to the State Retirement Board and to the insurance companies, will rise, officials stated, and the former payment will rise in proportion to the amount of the teacher salary raise.

Insurance payment may almost double if the work of recent appraisers is finally judged correct. Three appraisers have said the school district would have to carry \$154,000 more replacement value insurance next year than the current \$158,000. School directors unable to believe that values could change so within one year, had a binder placed on the policies pending further investigation.

A letter from Borough Council asking the school board to increase its donation to the public library from \$400 to \$1900 was taken under consideration.

"The general feeling was that although \$1900 was more than the school district could afford, a considerably larger sum than the current \$400 could probably be arranged. Final decision on the matter was postponed, however, until further discussion of the budget as a whole."

When board members discuss teachers' salaries they will take into consideration a recent request of the teachers that the school district establish a salary schedule, and that the schedule include higher maximum salaries than those provided in the State Act.

Under the State law, the salary range for teachers with standard certificates runs between \$1850 and \$2700; for those with AB degrees, \$2000 to \$3200; for MA degrees, \$2200 to \$3400. All receiving less than the maximum in their particular group must be given yearly increments of \$150 until they reach it.

Narberth has no teacher salary schedule of its own. However, if the board does pass a schedule which is higher than that of the State, it will probably mean that every borough teacher will receive an increase of more than the required \$150. Should a salary schedule not be set, the result may be additional raises for only a certain percentage of the teachers.

Also Philip Bentz, of Philadelphia, as Carlo Velberg, Central European supercargo; Leo McDermott, of Haverford, as Boyne, deckhand; Philippa Herman, of Ardmore, as Miriam Pick, companion secretary to actress Diane Lismore; Nancy Simpson, of Narberth, as Diane Lismore, and Paul Goodyear, of Merion, as a well-known English author.

Dr. Vasady is a professor at the Reformed Theological Faculty of the University at Debrecen and president of the theological department of the 400-year-old Reformed College in the same city. A member of the Provisional Committee of the World Council of Churches, he has been in consultation with leaders of the Council in France, Switzerland, England and Scotland and came to the United States at the invitation of the Federal Council and the American office of the World Council.

Prior to the war, Dr. Vasady visited America twice. He holds degrees from Central Theological Seminary in Dayton, O., and from Princeton Theological Seminary, where he is at present a guest professor.

Dr. Bela Vasady, a leading figure in the Reformed Church of Hungary, will speak April 9 at 8 P. M. at a meeting of the Men's League of the First Presbyterian Church of Ardmore. His topic will be "Despair and Hope in Europe."

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Salvation Army Campaign Opens With Luncheon

The annual Salvation Army Maintenance Fund campaign opens April 1, under the leadership of E. Lawrence Worstall, general chairman.

The campaign, which continues through May, will be launched with a "dutch treat" luncheon on April 2, which 1200 ward chairmen and captains will attend, in the main hall of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia. Mayor Bernard Samuel will make a brief address pledging the support of the city administration, and urging all Philadelphians to back the drive.

Principal speaker at the luncheon will be Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, former mayor of Baltimore, a practicing lawyer who is also a well-known speaker. Worstall, vice-president of the Philadelphia National Bank, will preside, and Lt. Col. Edgar Arkett, divisional commander of the Army, will speak also.

Worstall has also called on all volunteer workers to get their lists and work sheets, in order that no time will be lost in making a thorough canvass.

"The Salvation Army goal is \$750,000—the bare minimum required to maintain the work of the Army's 32 service centers in this city," Worstall said. "Despite increased living costs during the past year—a fact which every housewife realized only too well, we are asking the same amount as in 1947. I'm sure the public realizes the great need, and will give generously."

Mrs. Joseph M. Patterson, of (Continued on Page Three.)

William H. Haws Succumbs at 70

Funeral services for William Howard Haws, of 106 Dudley Ave., Narberth, well-known borough resident, who died at his home early Easter morning, were held Wednesday afternoon from the Stuard Funeral Home, Ardmore. He was 70.

A native of Berks County, Pa., Mr. Haws had lived in Narberth for the past 24 years, and had owned and managed Haws Hardware Store, formerly at 108 1/2 Forrest Ave., Narberth, from 1922 until 1946, when he retired because of a heart ailment.

He was a graduate of Peirce Business School and West Chester State Teachers College and served in the Armed Forces during the Spanish-American War. Prior to his ownership of the hardware business, he was associated with the Folwell Brothers and Company, Inc., Philadelphia, for 30 years.

He was also a member of the Narberth Presbyterian Church and a former member of the Narberth Business Council.

He is survived by his wife, the former Mrs. Mabel Pollock, of Narberth; a daughter, Mrs. Grace Miller, of Berlin, N. J.; two brothers, three sisters and three step-children.

Scout District To Give Courses At University

The Main Line district, Valley Forge Council of Boy Scouts of America, announced this week the opening of its "University of Scouting," on April 6, in the Narberth Public School, Essex and Sabine Aves.

The "University" will continue on April 13, 20 and 27, under the joint direction of Ray Shank, Narberth, and Harry Rettig, Wayne.

An expert faculty will offer courses for cub masters, cub den mothers, unit committeemen and troop camp leaders. The courses, which begin at 8 P. M., are open to all persons interested in the Scout family program, or interested in scouting or becoming a leader.

Over the week-end of April 3-4, forty Main Line district leaders will attend a Camporee Techniques course at Camp Delmont, the Valley Forge Council camp.

On Tuesday evening, April 6, the Merion Post of the American Legion will observe its traditional "Boy Scout Night." The evening will be given over to entertaining members of the Merion Liberty Troop No. 1, sponsored by the post.

On this occasion a Troop member whose work in Scouting has been outstanding during the past year will be honored by a special Post Medal Award. The name of the recipient is being withheld, pending the ceremony. An invitation to attend has been extended to fathers of the Scouts, members and fathers of Cub Pack No. 29, and sons of all Post members.

The Scout group, consisting of 30 active members, is in charge of Gardner Dean, scoutmaster, assisted by Walter Groff and Osborne Roberts.

The Boy Scout committee, headed by Samuel P. Blakeman and including Herbert J. Egmore, Jr., Edward M. Harris, Jr., J. Maxwell Smith, John Alden Tiff, Jr., and Philip B. Wilson, will represent the Post.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor: Please let me use the paper to record appreciation for the many nice birthday messages which came to me as a result of Mrs. Mueller's kindly letter. Dr. Welty still has me in the restricted zones and I cannot write the personal note which is due each of those friends who was so good as to wish me well.

The truth also is that the handwriting of some of them is almost as bad as my own and I am not sure that I have accurately deciphered all the signatures.

As these generous remembrances were induced by the suggestion which Mrs. Mueller published in Our Town, it can be assumed that these greetings will come to the notice of all who wrote me and to whom I now express most grateful thanks. It means that the old Narberth spirit continues to be something with which to conjecture.

J. J. CABREY

Speaker Tells of U. S. Need for Foreign Trade

H. J. Osterdorf, regional manager of international communications for the Western Union Telegraph Co., told members of the Bala-Cynwyd-Narberth Rotary Club on Tuesday that America has a stake in Europe, and that it was items on which we require help from abroad. They are dependent on us in many ways—and we are equally dependent on them, and on their resources. Exporting and importing are two necessary phases of our national life.

Osterdorf told his audience they should back help to Europe's starving needy for three good reasons: because they are business men; because they are members of International Rotary; and because as good Americans they have a stake

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Young People Will Sponsor Entertainment

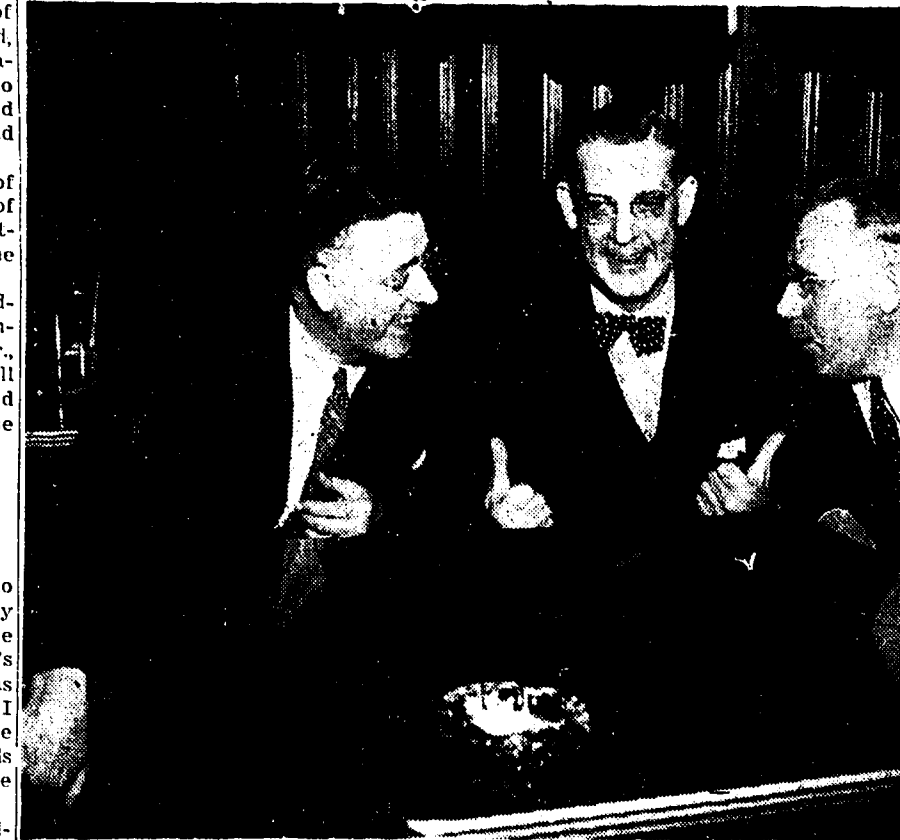
The Young Adults Group of the Narberth Methodist Church will sponsor a "Breakfast in Hollywood" program on Thursday, April 22, at 8 P. M., in the church building.

"Good Neighbor" letters, mentioning your candidate for Narberth's best and most useful citizen to her community, should be sent to Mrs. Martin Dubson, 241 Iona Ave.

Master of ceremonies will be Rev. Richard H. Jones, of Philadelphia. In addition to the grand prize to the "Good Neighbor," the eldest lady present will be given an orchid, with the compliments of Toni Breuneman, and there will be a wide variety of other prizes, including the Breuneman favorite for the funniest hat.

Committee members arranging (Continued on Page Three.)

Saga of the Three James Brothers Writes New Chapter in Local History



The days when the name of "the James boys" was associated with highway robbery and assorted mayhem have given way to another kind of fame, at least in Delaware and Montgomery counties. As a matter of fact the inclusion of the name of one of the James brothers in the roster of the United States House of Representatives may not be far off, if local political prognosticators are accurate.

The James boys of local fame live in Radnor Township and Lower Merion Township; and each, in his own way, has contributed in a full

measure to the civic and political well-being of his community. Among the three, they represent the high type of good citizenship which may be attained by men of intelligence, ambition and good will to his fellow-man.

The three, Benjamin Franklin James, 3rd, Evan Lewis James and Wallaston K. James, were sons of Ella Virginia and Evan L. James, of Philadelphia and Roxborough. Both parents are now dead, but the senior James' homestead at Kilmerton, outside Phoenixville, is still standing. The three were educated

in the Roxborough and Philadelphia public schools. Ben and Evan chose the University of Pennsylvania as alma mater, and Wallaston was graduated from Temple University.

Ben, the eldest, was named for his grandfather. Although the James family tree fails to show a direct descent from the Franklin of "Poor Richard" fame, the current Congressional candidate from the Seventh Congressional district is president of the Franklin Printing Company, founded by the original

(Continued on Page Three.)

List Cast For Playhouse Show

Group to Present "People at Sea"

The Main Line Playhouse will present J. B. Priestly's three-act play, "People at Sea" in the Lower Merion High School auditorium Saturday, May 15. Cast members include:

Mark Morgan, of Merion, as Frank Jefferson, fourth officer on the ship Zilla, where all action takes place; Charles Boland, of Philadelphia, as Ripton, ship steward; Harry Hewitt, of Ardmore, as Mills, second wireless officer; Nancy Reese, as Nona Stockton, young American passenger; Barry Thompson, of Cynwyd, as Professor Pawlet, elderly Englishman; Mrs. John Haig, of Germantown, as Mrs. Westmoreland, elderly Englishwoman.

Also Philip Bentz, of Philadelphia, as Carlo Velberg, Central European supercargo; Leo McDermott, of Haverford, as Boyne, deckhand; Philippa Herman, of Ardmore, as Miriam Pick, companion secretary to actress Diane Lismore; Nancy Simpson, of Narberth, as Diane Lismore, and Paul Goodyear, of Merion, as a well-known English author.

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Army Day

A proclamation designating Tuesday, April 6, as Army Day was issued this week by Richard L. Miller, Burgess of the Borough of Narberth.

The move followed a proclamation by President Harry S. Truman, designating April 6 as Army Day and calling upon the people of the United States to pay honor to our armed forces on this occasion.

The local proclamation reads as follows:

BOROUGH OF NARBERTH
A PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING TUESDAY,
APRIL 6, 1948
AS
ARMY DAY

WHEREAS, the million or more men and women in our Army are instruments of the nation's will for security and peace, and

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